

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 263916

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: LAOS PARA SECTION II

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PARA SECTION II ON UNITED STATES
POLICY TOWARD LAOS AS APPROVED BY NSC:

UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD LAOS MUST BE VIEWED IN THE
CONTEXT OF OUR REGIONAL AND WORLD INTEREST IN PEACE,
STABILITY AND THE LESSENING OF GREAT POWER CONFRONTATION.
WITHIN THESE GENERAL LINES, U.S. POLICY CAN BE MORE PRE-
CISELY DEFINED AS FOLLOWS.

-- WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE 'SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE,
NEUTRALITY, UNITY, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY' OF LAOS AS
STATED IN THE 1962 GENEVA ACCORDS, TO WHICH WE WERE A
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SIGNATORY.

-- WE SUPPORT THE FORMATION OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT AND SUBSEQUENT PROTOCOL TO THAT AGREEMENT, BOTH OF WHICH WERE SIGNED BY THE TWO LAO SIDES IN 1973.

-- WE WISH TO SEE LAOS PRESERVED AS A PEACEFUL, INDEPENDENT, NEUTRAL, BUFFER STATE, NOT DOMINATED BY ITS LARGER COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS, NORTH VIETNAM OR CHINA, AND NOT RULED BY A COMMUNIST DOMINATED GOVERNMENT.

-- SPECIFICALLY WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK THE FULFILLMENT OF CERTAIN ARTICLES IN THE GENEVA AND VIENTIANE AGREEMENTS SUCH AS THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE WITHDRAWAL FROM LAOS OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS, I.E., THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, AND THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF LAO TERRITORY FOR MILITARY PURPOSES TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, I.E., SOUTH VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, AND THAILAND.

-- WITHIN THE PARAMETERS ESTABLISHED BY THE LAO ACCORDS OF 1962 AND 1973 WHICH CALL FOR REUNIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION OF THE COUNTRY, WE WILL SUPPORT RESISTANCE IN THE PGNU TO LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT EFFORTS TO TAKE FULL CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT AND DESTROY THE NEUTRALITY OF LAOS.

--WE WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISION IN THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT THAT EACH SIDE PROVIDE INFORMATION ON PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION DURING THE WAR, SO THAT WE CAN PROVIDE DEFINITIVE NEWS TO THE FAMILIES OF MISSING AMERICANS.

-- WE WILL ALSO URGE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISION IN THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT THAT REFUGEES FROM THE WAR BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IF THEY WISH, WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE BURDEN OF U.S. SUPPORT TO THE REFUGEES.

-- WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LAOS TO HELP STABILIZE THE ECONOMY AND DEVELOP THE COUNTRY, TO PREVENT ECONOMIC TROUBLE FROM UPSETTING THE
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POLITICAL COALITION AND TO MAKE LAOS MORE SELF-SUPPORTING, SO THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE MAY BE PHASED DOWN AND EVENTUALLY TERMINATED.

-- WE WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE THE LAO TO OBTAIN AID FROM OTHER DONORS, AS WELL AS URGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE THAT AID, SO THAT OTHERS CAN SHARE THE AID BURDEN WITH US MORE EQUABLY.

-- WE WILL ALSO URGE THE LAO TO TAKE THE NECESSARY

MEASURES TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN ECONOMIC SITUATION SO AS
NOT TO RELY SO HEAVILY ON U.S. AID.

-- WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MILITARY AID TO THE PGNU
TO MAINTAIN THE FORCES ARMEES ROYALES, AS A DETERRENT TO
A COMMUNIST MILITARY TAKEOVER WHICH WOULD DESTROY THE
NEUTRALITY OF LAOS, UNTIL A UNIFIED ARMY IS ESTABLISHED.

-- WE WILL SUPPORT PGNU EFFORTS TO OPEN ACCESS TO
PATHET LAO TERRITORY AND PERMIT FREE MOVEMENT OF ALL
PEOPLE BETWEEN THE ZONES AS PROVIDED IN THE LAO ACCORDS.
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